REMARKS

Claims 1 to 8, are pending in this application. Claims 1, 5, 6 and 8 are herein cancelled. Claims 2, 3, 4 and 7 are herein amended.

Claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification and claims, as originally filed. Applicants submit that no new matter is included in these amendments and requests that they be entered.

Claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification and claims, as originally filed. Applicants submit that no new matter is included in these amendments and requests that they be entered.

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 USC §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Guerra, U.S. Patent No. 5,824,730. Claim 4 has now been rewritten in independent form and amended to incorporate all the requirements as to the composition of the mixture of colloidal silicas regarding the specific amounts of each particle size diameter of colloidal silica present in the mixture from Claim 2 while also including a requirement that one polymer selected from the group consisting of latex polymers, water-soluble polymers and mixtures thereof be present in the claimed composition. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification and claims, as originally filed. Applicants submit that no new matter is included in these amendments and requests that they be entered.

Claim 7 has now been rewritten in independent form and been amended to incorporate all the requirements as to the composition of the mixture of colloidal silicas regarding the specific amounts of each particle size diameter of colloidal silica present in the mixture from Claim 3 while

also including a requirement that one polymer selected from the group consisting of latex polymers, water-soluble polymers and mixtures thereof be present in the claimed composition. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification and claims, as originally filed. Applicants submit that no new matter is included in these amendments and requests that they be entered.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that based upon the above Amendments and Remarks that all pending claims are in condition for Allowance and courteously requests that a Notice of Allowance be sent for all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted

Margaret M. Brumm /

Reg. No. 33,655

Patent & Licensing Department

Nalco Company

1601 W. Diehl Road

Naperville, Illinois 60563-1198

(630) 305-1423

Date: